

RAGGED CITY ARE HIT IN FIRST HALF

Oxford C. 0 Wycombe W. 3

WYCOMBE WANDERERS strengthened their championship claim with an easy win at Oxford City's White House Ground on Boxing Day.

Ragged City were no match for the skilful visitors who coasted home after scoring three times in the first 35 minutes.

Delaney scored the first goal in the 16th minute from a penalty. Oxford mid-field man, Pentecost, pushed the ball back to goalkeeper Hawkins, but failed to spot the lurking Searle, and full back Ramsden was forced to fist the ball away to avert the danger.

Ten minutes later, Horseman put the ball through for Searle to add the second, and in the 35th

minute, Wycombe burst through again with Hutchinson nodding a Searle cross forward to Horseman, who scored from close range.

Struggling Oxford could never match their opponents' skill and speed and six first half goals by Wycombe would have been no injustice.

They could have been two up in the first eight minutes. On the first occasion, Baker opened up the home defence with a fine pass to Searle who raced away alone to shoot straight at Hawkins.

Then Horseman pushed the ball through and, as Oxford waited in vain for 'offside', Searle ran clear again and

watched in amazement as the goalkeeper leapt to his left to push the shot away.

Oxford's only replies in a one-sided first half was a drive from Moreton which went over and a fierce shot from Oram which Maskell did well to hold.

The second half was a little more balanced. Oxford drafted Oram from midfield into the attack and the home side began to produce some fight.

But although their work rate increased, their play was still too untidy to worry the confident visitors.

Wycombe were content to take it easy after the interval, although they could have increased their lead when Sudaby put Searle clear. But after drawing the goalkeeper, the striker shot hurriedly and the ball curled the wrong side of a post.

For a time, Oxford were prominent and Maskell picked up two efforts from Oram and dived brilliantly to save a fine 25 yard attempt by Woodley.

Then Maskell pulled off another good save from Booker after Oram had broken clear on the right.

But Wycombe were never in serious trouble and hit back for another spell of pressure towards the end.

Anthony and Hutchinson had shots saved by Hawkins before Searle produced a cracking drive which skimmed the bar, and Horseman joined in the bombardment with a powerful shot just past the post.